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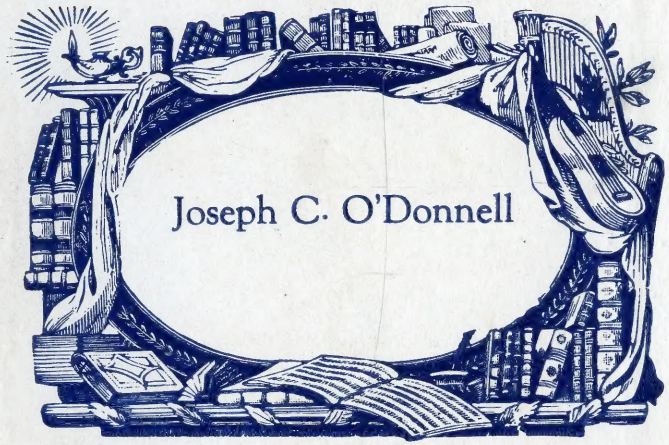

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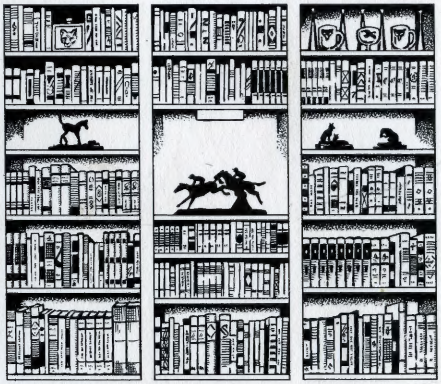
F. Gray Griswold.



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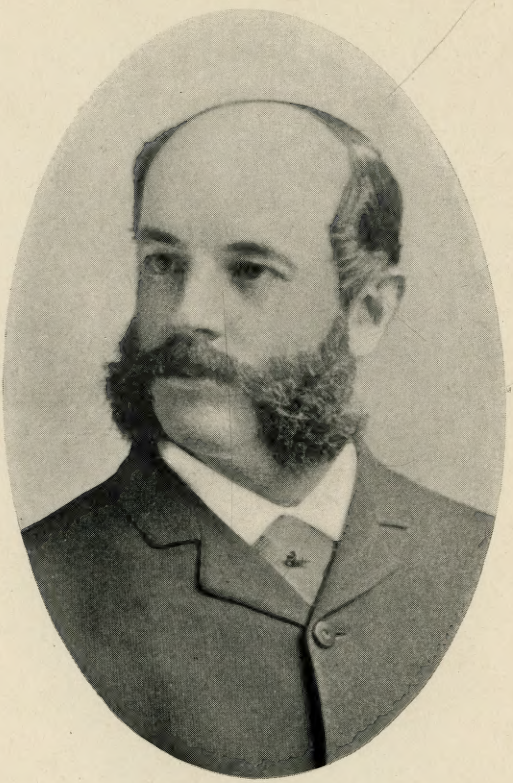
JOHN AND MARTHA DANIELS

Compliments of

THE KITTENS



PHILIP SCHUYLER

THE KITTENS

1869–1916

Printed privately
for
F. Gray Griswold

THE KITTENS

1869

"This dining club was originated early in February 1869 by:

MR. J. G. K. DUER,
MR. JAMES DE W. CUTTING,
MR. JAMES BENKARD.

"These gentlemen asked Mr. Meredith Howland, Mr. Cornelius Fellowes, Mr. George P. Wetmore, Mr. R. de Grasse Fox, and Mr. Philip Schuyler to join with them in instituting the Club, which they did.

"It had been thought advisable to have a name given to the Club, when at the suggestion of Mr. Fellowes 'The Kittens' was unanimously adopted.

"The following rules were then approved and adopted:

"1. The number of members of the Club

to be not more than twelve, a unanimous vote being necessary for election.

"2. No rule or regulation governing this Dining Club is to be binding unless it be approved by all the members.

"3. That a Secretary be appointed who with the Caterer are the only officers of the Club.

"4. The Caterer is to appoint his successor for the next dinner, who is to inform the members when and where the next dinner is to be held, the place being optional with him. He is to sit at the head of the table, the preceding Caterer at the foot, and he is to be known as the Tom Cat.

"5. That a book be procured for the purpose of keeping a record of the dinners, where held, the date, who were present and absent, etc., — this book to be taken charge of and posted by the Secretary, who, at each dinner will read the minutes of the previous dinner to the table.

GEORGE S. BOWDOIN

ISAAC TOWNSEND

"6. That all absentees from the regular dinners shall pay their share of the expenses of the dinner unless a written notice is sent to the Caterer one week before the dinner of inability to attend. A member sending such a notice at that time shall be excused on a fine of five dollars, otherwise he is to pay his proportion of the whole dinner.

"7. That the regular dinners of the Club shall be held upon the first Saturday of each month, commencing on the first Saturday of November, and ending on the first Saturday of June, both inclusive."

These rules have been changed and amended many times during the last forty-seven years and by custom should read at this time as follows:

1. The Kittens are limited to twenty members.

2. There shall be six dinners each season, beginning on the first Tuesday in November. A seventh dinner may be

given in May if desired by the members in which case it has been the custom to dine out of town.

3. The Tom Cats succeed one another according to the alphabet and the Secretary is the Tom Cat at the November dinner.

4. Prior to the first dinner of the season each member shall send the Secretary, on receipt of a request, the sum of $35 which shall be devoted pro rata to the expenses of the season's dinners. Should any balance remain at the end of the season it shall be added to the Club Fund.

5. If any member fails to reply to a dinner invitation three days before the dinner takes place, he will be charged with his share of the said dinner.

6. Should the Secretary be in need of funds, it is the custom to assess the members at the next dinner.

7. When it is desired to fill a vacancy it has become the custom for the Secretary to notify each member of the fact

and to request the names of candidates in writing. At the following dinner the proposed member or members shall be voted for by written ballot. Every member is obliged to vote yes or no. Should any of the names proposed receive a unanimous affirmative vote the Secretary is instructed to communicate the fact in writing to such members as were not present when the vote was taken, and if said absent members all vote in the affirmative, the candidate is considered elected. The vote must be unanimous. The Secretary then requests a sponsor to notify the new member of his election and to ask his pleasure. An unsuccessful candidate may be proposed again but not if he has once been elected and refused to join the Club.

At the first dinner following the death of a member, and after the minutes of the last dinner have been read, it is the custom of the Club to drink a silent toast, standing, "to all departed friends."

Ever since the 21st Dinner held February 6, 1872, it has been the custom to sell Matrimonial Pools after dinner. For many years, as many as five such pools were often sold, but of late it has become the custom to sell one General Pool and one Field and Favorite Pool.

The Auctioneer is instructed to accept no bid under $5.00. Any member buying both ends of a Pool shall pay $25.00 to the Club Fund.

Messrs. Nicholas, Mesier, Townsend, and Thomson have been most efficient auctioneers.

The following Pools have been settled:

In 1872 when Mr. Schuyler was married $703 changed hands. The largest winner was Mr. Howland, who won $462.

In 1873 Mr. Lowery was married. $3,924 changed hands as follows:

ARTHUR THOMSON

F. GRAY GRISWOLD

Mr. Lowery's Marriage 1873

Pools	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	Results
Alley	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	− 70	− 115	.....	− 185
Bowdoin	− 30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	− 30
Bronson	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	− 70	.....	.....	− 70
Cutting	− 49	− 52	.....	− 36	− 50	− 50	.....	+ 30	.....	− 95	.....	− 116
M. Howland	− 105	− 55	.....	− 47	.....	.....	.....	− 29	.....	− 235	.....	− 471
Johnson	.....	− 33	.....	− 30	− 42	.....	.....	.....	− 135	.....	.....	− 240
Lowery	.....	− 133	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	− 106	+ 37	− 50	.....	− 79	.....	.....	− 50	− 80	− 80	.....	− 230
Nicholas	.....	.....	.....	− 28	.....	.....	.....	− 70	− 110	.....	− 200	− 408
Redmond	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	+ 130	+ 180	.....	+ 70	+ 50	+ 655	+ 1290
Fellowes	+ 45	− 75	+ 120	+ 30 − 17	+ 36 − 18	.....	− 50	− 67	.....	.....	.....	+ 460
In Pools	335	385	170	188	225	180	230	246	535	575	855	$3924

In 1875 when Mr. Bronson was married $3,493 was divided. Mr. Johnson won $1,137. Mr. Bronson lost $1,427.

In 1877 when Mr. Mesier was married $2,372 was divided. Mr. Lowery won $768.

In 1880 when Mr. Rowland Redmond was married $2,475 was divided. Mr. Townsend won $860, being the largest winner.

There is no record of any other pools having been settled although the pools were paid when Mr. Barger was married.

On March 3, 1880, pools of the aggregate of $3,900 were sold, which is the record amount for one dinner.

The Secretaries of the Club have been Messrs. Schuyler, R. Redmond, Bowdoin, F. M. Johnson, Townsend, Goodwin, Nash, and Huntington.

Messrs. Schuyler and Nash served the Club in this capacity for many years.

The Club presented silver cups to Messrs.

JOHN McL. NASH

WILLIAM H. GOADBY

Schuyler, Redmond, Bronson, Mesier, and Benkard when they were married.

A loving cup was presented by the members to their successors at the 200th dinner.

There is no record of the much beloved "Pussy," but on March 13, 1875, it was proposed and seconded that "Mr. Nicholas gives a duplicate cat." The supposition is that he broke the original.

The first dinner was given at the New York Club on February 20, 1869, at 6:30 P.M., since which there have been 308 dinners.

The Club has dined at the New York, Union, Brook, Knickerbocker, Manhattan, Country, Tuxedo, and Weschester Polo Clubs; at the Hotels Brunswick and New York; at Delmonico's, Pinard's, and Sutherland's Restaurants; at Coney Island, Morris Plains, and at Roslyn.

The dinners cost at first from $7 to $9, and the 307th dinner cost $14.10 a plate.

The first Menu of record was:

New York Club, March 13, 1875

HUITRES

PURÉE A LA REINE CONSOMMÉ PRINTANIÈRE

WHITE BAIT

SHAD GRILLÉ MAITRE D'HOTEL

SPRING LAMB MINT SAUCE

BOUDINS A LA RICHELIEU

CHAMPIGNONS FRAIS

POMMES SURPRISE PETITS POIS FRANÇAISE

NAVETS DE DELLDAN

SORBET AU MARASQUIN

CHAPONS TRUFFÉS AU CRESSON

LAITUE DE BOSTON

GLACE NEAPOLITAINE FROMAGE ET FRUITS

CAFÉ ET LIQUEURS

The 100th Dinner of the Club was given at Pinard's Restaurant, 6 East 15th Street, on November 10, 1883, at 7 o'clock.

Messrs. Schuyler, Benkard, and Bowdoin were the Caterers. The table was decorated with the silver cups received by the members from the Club, filled with roses, and by commemoration Menus.

The Menu of the dinner was:

OYSTERS

GREEN TURTLE SOUP A L'ANGLAISE

CRÈME DE VOLAILLE ROYALE

CHICKEN HALIBUT SAUCE HOLLANDAISE

EPERLANS SAUCE TARTARE

CONCOMBRES

SADDLE OF MUTTON CURRANT JELLY

POMMES CROQUETTES EPINARDS A LA CRÈME

TERRAPIN A LA BALTIMORE

RED-HEAD DUCKS

CELERY AND LETTUCE SALAD

CHEESE

ICES CAKES FRUITS COFFEE

Members present: Messrs. Benkard, Bowdoin, Bradford, Fellowes, Grant, Hall, G. G. Howland, M. Howland, F. M. Johnson, Lowery, Nicholas, G. H. Redmond, R. Redmond, Robinson, Sanford, Schuyler, and Townsend.

Members absent: Messrs. Bronson and Wetmore.

The 200th Dinner of the Club was given at the Union Club on January 14, 1899.

Mr. Bowdoin was Tom Cat.

The members present were: Messrs. Bowdoin, Mesier, Bronson, Bradford, Benkard, Fellowes, Nicholas, Townsend, Griswold, Young, Thomson, Goadby, Grant, Mali, Perkins, and Hitchcock, and Mr. Kane, the new "Kitten," the only absentees being Mr. Schuyler, who was in Europe, and Mr. Howland by reason of family affliction.

The Menu and list of wines was as follows:

ROBERT P. PERKINS

MILTON S. BARGER

CHERRYSTONE OYSTERS

CLEAR TURTLE SOUP CHICKEN SOUP A LA REINE

BOILED CHICKEN HALIBUT SAUCE HOLLANDAISE

FRIED OYSTER CRABS POMMES PERSILLADE

MOUSSE AU JAMBON SOLFERINO

TERRAPIN

SADDLE OF YEARLING LAMB

PURÉE OF CHESTNUTS STRING BEANS

PÂTÉ DE FOIES GRAS EN CROUTE

KITTEN PUNCH

CANVAS BACK DUCKS

HOMINY

CELERY MAYONNAISE

CHEESE

PARFAIT AU CHOCOLAT COFFEE

The wines, the gift of the Tom Cat and most thoroughly and impartially tested and appreciated, were:

WINE LIST

Steinberger Cabinet Imperial 1868

Amontillado Sherry, White Seal XXX

Perrier & Jouet | *Veuve Clicquot 1892*

Château Yquem 1874

Mouton Rothschild 1869 and 1875

White Port 1834 | *Red Port 1815*

MADEIRAS

Blue Pipe 1815

Oliver 1812

Sercial 1816

After dinner the Silver Loving Cup, the gift of the Club, to its successors, was presented and generally approved.

At the 200th Dinner Mr. Bowdoin produced six different old brandies for discussion.

1. *Fine Champagne 1824.*
2. *Fine Champagne 1830.*
3. *Fine Champagne 1800.*
4. *Dulany Cognac 1826.*
5. *Balfour Cognac 1801.*
6. *Cognac Vierge 1827.*

"It was agreed that none was bad, that some were better than the others, and that nothing was so likely to lead to absolute certainty of judgment in such matters as continued and frequent experimentation. To this studious and thoughtful comparison the sober members unanimously determined to devote themselves if opportunity offered."

Mr. Townsend was Tom Cat at the

300th dinner given at The Brook, March 30, 1915.

Members present: Messrs. Townsend, Griswold, Thomson, Goadby, Nash, Perkins, Barger, Huntington, Knapp, Weekes, and Clark.

FORD HUNTINGTON

H. K. KNAPP

MENU

GRAPE FRUIT

GUMBO CRÉOLE

FILETS OF WHITE FISH NORMANDE

CONCOMBRES

SADDLE OF CANADIAN MUTTON

NEW GREEN PEAS POTATOES PERSILLADE

KITTEN PUNCH

NEW ASPARAGUS SAUCE HOLLANDAISE

VOL AU VENT KITTEN CLUB

STRAWBERRIES PARISIENNES

CHEESE COFFEE

Veuve Clicquot 1899

Madeira: Henry Clay, Murdock

Cockburn Port 1878

Brandy 1797

On May 21, 1910, the Kittens dined at Brook Bank, Morris Plains, N. J., with Mr. Thomson, Tom Cat, to celebrate his seventieth birthday.

Members present: Messrs. Grant, Perkins, Griswold, Goadby, Huntington, and Thomson.

MENU

CAVIAR

GRAPE FRUIT

CRÉOLE SOUP

SEA BASS

SADDLE OF LAMB GREEN PEAS

ASPARAGUS ON TOAST

SALAD AND CHEESE CARAMEL ICE CREAM

COFFEE

HENRY DE FOREST WEEKES

LOUIS C. CLARK, JR.

The 308th Dinner of the Club was given at Cassleigh, Roslyn, L. I., on May 2, 1916, by Mr. Griswold, Tom Cat.

Members present: Messrs. Townsend, Perkins, Day, Irvin, Clark, Weekes, Knapp, Barger, Huntington, and Griswold.

Absent: Messrs. Thomson and Goadby.

Mr. Irving sold favorite in the Pools.

MENU

SOUPE A L'OIGNON GRATINÉE

SOFT SHELL CRABS SAUTÉS AU PAPRIKA

POITRINES DE POULETS EN CASSEROLE

SAMP GRATINÉ LIMA BEANS

ASPERGES BOUILLIES SAUCE HOLLANDAISE

CANETONS RÔTIS FARCIS AUX PRUNEAUX

SAUCE VICTORIA

LAITUES AUX OEUFS

COEURS GLACÉS A LA CRÈME

COMPÔTE DE FRAISES

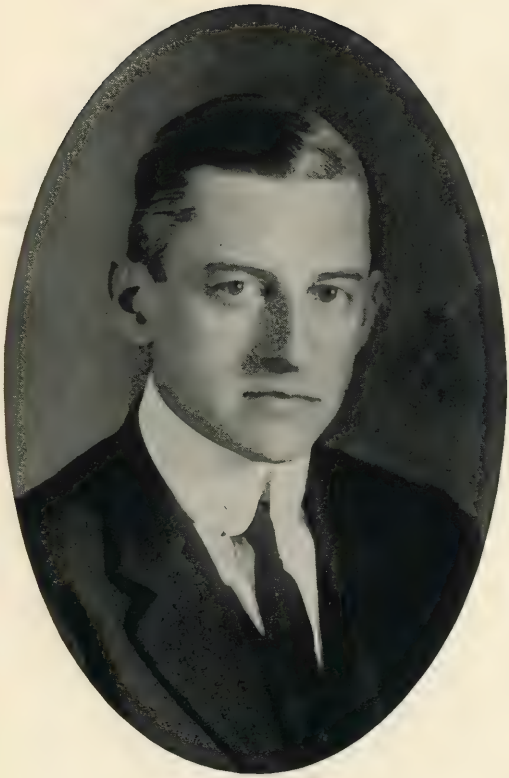
TUILES AUX AMANDES

Clicquot 1899 *Balfour Brandy 1801*

1840 Port *Fin de Siècle Cognac*

Brook Club Port *Cadwalader Madeira*

CAFÉ



SHERMAN DAY

E. TOWNSEND IRVIN

THE KITTENS

1869

J. G. K. Duer, *Original Member*, Resigned 1871
J. de W. Cutting " "..... ✝1885
James Benkard " "..... ✝1902
Meredith Howland " "...Resigned 1887
Cornelius Fellowes " "..... ✝1909
George P. Wetmore " "...Resigned 1885
R. de Grasse Fox " "...Resigned 1874
Philip Schuyler " "..... ✝1906
George S. Bowdoin, Elected March 6th... ✝1913
James A. Lowery, Elected March 27th..... ✝1890

1870

J. Wilson, Elected January 8th, Resigned.... 1871
Rowland Redmond, Elected March 5th.... ✝1894

1872

George W. Johnson, Elected February 17th. ✝1883
Harry I. Nicholas, Elected May 4th..... ✝1901

1873

George B. Alley, Elected February 5th, Resigned 1873
J. H. Bradford, Elected February 5th..... ✝1908
Frederic Bronson, Elected February..... ✝1901
G. G. Howland, Elected February..... ✝1903

1874

BEVERLY ROBINSON, JR., Elected January 5th, Resigned 1876. Re-elected 1881.....†1885

GOOLD H. REDMOND, Elected January 5th, Resigned..... 1888

1876

LOUIS MESIER, Elected April 5th, Resigned 1881, Re-elected 1884.....†1905

1879

A. WRIGHT SANFORD, Elected March 4th....†1888

ISAAC TOWNSEND, Elected March 4th.....

1880

GEORGE W. HALL, Elected January 15th....†1887

1882

FRANK M. JOHNSON, Elected April 15th.....†1890

1883

R. SUYDAM GRANT, Elected April 5th.....†1912

1885

H. W. T. MALI, Elected December 12th.....†1901

1887

ARTHUR THOMSON, Elected December 10th..

1889

RICHARD N. YOUNG, Elected February 9th..†1908

WENDEL GOODWIN, Elected February 9th, Resigned..... 1896

1891

F. GRAY GRISWOLD, Elected February 7th....

1892

JOHN McL. NASH, Elected January 9th .....†1916
WILLIAM H. GOADBY, Elected January 9th..

1895

ROBERT P. PERKINS, Elected May 15th.....

1897

CENTER HITCHCOCK, Elected February 13th..†1908

1899

WOODBURY KANE, Elected January 14th, Resigned 1904

1903

EDWARD H. BULKLEY, Elected December 22d.†1908

1905

MILTON S. BARGER, Elected February 15th..

1910

FORD HUNTINGTON, Elected March 15th.....

1911

H. K. KNAPP, Elected November 15th.....
HENRY DEF. WEEKES, Elected December 15th

1914

LOUIS C. CLARK, JR., Elected November 14th

1916

SHERMAN DAY, Elected January 4th.....
E. TOWNSEND IRVIN, Elected January 4th...

Forty-four Members.

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